

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:
a receptacle with a first opening and a second opening, wherein the first
5 opening is adapted to receive the vial and the second opening is
adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;
a slide extending below the second opening and adapted to allow the vial to
slide downwardly away from the receptacle; and
a flap with a first end thereof pivotally attached to the receptacle near the
10 second opening, wherein the flap extends beyond the second opening
and is adapted to contact the vial as the vial leaves the second
opening and exert pressure on the vial as the vial moves down the
slide.
- 15 2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first opening is a
broad opening and the second opening is a narrow opening.
3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the receptacle includes
a narrowing peripheral wall that forms the broad opening and the narrow opening.
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4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the broad opening faces
upward and the narrow opening faces downward.
5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the slide is parallel to
25 a portion of the wall near an end of the slide attached to the receptacle.
6. The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the slide is adapted to
force the vial into a position parallel to the slide as the vial leaves the receptacle
through the narrow opening.
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7. The apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the slide is attached to
the wall near the narrow opening at a point opposite the flap.

8. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flap includes a weight secured to a second end thereof.

9. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flap is adapted to
5 pivot away from the vial in response to pressure from the vial to allow the vial to leave the receptacle and move down the slide.

10. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a side wall attached to the receptacle near the narrow opening adapted to maintain the vial on
10 the slide as the vial moves down the slide.

11. The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein the side wall extends between the slide and the flap.

12. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a platform
15 attached to the slide and adapted to receive and support the vial after the vial has moved down the slide.

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13. An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:
a receptacle with a broad opening and a narrow opening, wherein the broad opening is adapted to receive the vial and the narrow opening is adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;
- 5 a slide attached to a portion of a wall of the receptacle near the narrow opening, extending below the narrow opening parallel to the wall, and adapted to allow the vial to slide downwardly away from the receptacle; and
- 10 a flap with an end thereof pivotally attached to the receptacle near the narrow opening, wherein the flap extends beyond the narrow opening and is adapted to contact the vial as the vial leaves the narrow opening, exert pressure on the vial as the vial moves down the slide, and pivot away from the vial to allow the vial to move down the slide.
- 15 14. The apparatus as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a side wall attached to the wall near the narrow opening, extending below the narrow opening between the slide and the flap, adapted to maintain the vial on the slide as the vial moves down the slide.
- 20 15. The apparatus as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a platform attached to the slide and adapted to receive and support the vial after the vial has moved down the slide.

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16. An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:
a receptacle with a narrowing peripheral wall, which forms a broad opening
facing upward adapted to receive the vial, and a narrow opening
facing downward adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;
5 a slide attached to the wall near the narrow opening and extending below the
narrow opening parallel to a portion of the wall near an end of the
slide attached thereto, adapted to force the vial into a position parallel
to the slide as the vial leaves the receptacle through the narrow
opening, support the vial as it leaves the receptacle, and allow the vial
10 to slide downwardly away from the receptacle along the slide;
a weighted flap with an end thereof pivotally attached to the wall near the
narrow opening opposite the slide so that the flap extends beyond the
narrow opening and partially obstructs a path of the vial as the vial
moves down the slide, the flap adapted to contact the vial as the vial
15 leaves the narrow opening and moves down the slide, exert pressure
on the vial to hold the vial against the slide and slow the vial's
movement, and pivot away from the vial in response to pressure from
the vial to allow the vial to leave the receptacle and move down the
slide;
20 a side wall attached to the wall near the narrow opening, extending below the
narrow opening between the slide and the flap, adapted to maintain
the vial on the slide as the vial moves down the slide; and
a platform attached to the slide and adapted to receive and support the vial
after the vial has moved down the slide.

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